

Appl. No. 10/729,230
Reply to Office Action of March 11, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording sheet comprising a support having thereon an ink receiving layer containing ~~[[a]]~~ silica ~~particles~~ ~~particle~~ prepared by ~~a wet method~~ a precipitation method or a gelling method; and a hydrophilic binder,

wherein the silica ~~particle has~~ particles have an average diameter of a primary particle of not more than 10 nm and an average diameter of a ~~second~~ secondary particle diameter of 10 to 300 nm; a weight ratio of the silica ~~particle~~ particles to the hydrophilic binder is 5.5 : 1 to 12 : 1; and the ink receiving layer has a surface pH value of 3.0 to 6.0.

2. (Currently Amended) The ink-jet recording sheet of claim 1, wherein the silica ~~particle is~~ particles are prepared by a gelling method.

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3. (Original) The ink-jet recording sheet of claim 1,
wherein the hydrophilic binder is a polyvinyl alcohol or a polyvinyl alcohol derivative.
4. (Original) The ink-jet recording sheet of claim 1,
wherein the ink receiving layer contains a cationic compound for fixing a colorant in the ink.
5. (Original) The ink-jet recording sheet of claim 1,
wherein the support is non-water absorptive.
6. (New) A method of forming an ink-jet recording sheet,
comprising the steps of:
pulverizing silica particles prepared by a precipitation method or a gelling method so as to have an average diameter of a secondary particle of 10 to 300 nm;
mixing the dispersed silica particles with a hydrophilic binder to form a coating composition; and
applying the coating composition on a support,
wherein a weight ratio of the silica particles to the hydrophilic binder is 5.5 : 1 to 12 : 1; and the ink receiving layer has a surface pH value of 3.0 to 6.0.

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7. (New) The method of forming an ink-jet recording sheet of claim 6,

wherein the dispersed silica particles satisfy the following relationship:

$$150 < y + 17 \cdot \ln(x) < 500,$$

provided that x represents a number of particles having a particle diameter of at least 10 μm in one gram of the dispersed silica particles, while y represents the average particle diameter of the secondary particles.

8. (New) The method of forming an ink-jet recording sheet of claim 6,

wherein a cationic compound for fixing a colorant in an ink-jet ink is present during the dispersing step of the silica particles.